

CLOSED
UNTIL

1986

C.O. 67/363

90853 PVI

1949

No.

90853 - PVI ✓

SUBJECT

Maltese in Cyprus.

CO 67/363/8

Cyprus.

1949

S
234

1

Previous

90853/49

PVI

Subsequent

1950

Action required in (59) is

1. To make an official announcement in Cyprus to
foreign missions. The draft announcement (~~attached to~~
to Encl II) is sent to cons.

I do not think we can agree the final sentence
of Appendix III to Encl I. if an announcement is made in Encl I
the F.O. will have to give last word. In para 3.

of (59) A/Gov. points out that non-Maltese will be
excluded. This we have agreed and have informed
F.O. that aliens are unacceptable. (V. 158) on PT I/49.

To allow further repatriations to Greece and Turkey

is contrary to F.O. policy (V. 122) on PT II/47)

and ~~the~~ the point is made in our dispatch
at (20) on PT I. (V. para 8.). On the other

hand the A/Gov. is surely correct in saying
that he cannot prevent a refugee leaving
for Turkey or Greece whose papers are in order.

What we mean is presumably that they should
not be encouraged and this runs counter to
para 5 of (59).

2. An answer to the charge that when the Maltese
were sent to India they went to the
exclusion of the Cypriots in Greece.

I do not know the answer and it is the
first I have heard of it but this will take
time to research. ? Review for this problem.

3. Para 6. of (59) speaks of legally repatriable
Maltese to Malta. No Maltese ^{living} ~~in~~
abroad is in this category, technically they are
all entitled to go back ^{provided} they can
satisfy the terms of the Immigration Ordinance
none can, they are therefore legally non-
repatriable.

4. a telegram authorizing the transfer
of funds & materials from the Jewish camps
to the administrative camps. Presumably
Treasury concurrence will be necessary in
view of financial settlement of the Jewish
camps.

3

I think an early meeting next week is the best
solution, meantime 4. above could be settled.

JSL
7/5.

Dup.
Copy of (59) & enclosures to Foreign
Office (K. G. Ritchie, Esq. Consular Dept)

Copy of (59) & of enclosure No 2 to
Treasury (W. Field Robinson)
with compts.

And vice to me.

MF

7 v staves

60 To K. G. Ritchie Esq (4/0) Dup 59 & Enc Compts 9-5-49

61 W. Field Robinson (Esq) w/c 59 & enclos II Compts - 10/5/49

Mr. Bennett.

Please see (59) & Mr. Lloyd's
minute above. I have now discussed with
Mr. Lloyd.

We should, with luck, be able to
clear by telephone within the next
two days the two most pressing

points: (i) approval of the draft announcement
in Cyprus (enclosure 2) (ii) authority to
C.J.C. to release the relevant
Jewish Camps. As regards (i) I
think we should be guided by
the Cyprus authorities in the matter,
& approve their draft without
further hesitation.

If you agree we will tackle
this first.

Then is then the question of
whether any Ms who wish to
leave Cyprus should be allowed to
do so. This affects the terms of
the announcement to be made
in Eritrea. See paras 3 & 5 of
the S. gram & Appendix III. It seems
to me obvious that the present
system should continue. I think
we should pass F.O. & try to agree
to the arrangement the O.H. suggests,
with a corresponding amendment to
Appendix III. (Something like
"Persons who have applied to go to
other countries will be able to
do so & on the same terms as at
present: viz. they will be required to
produce evidence that they can support
themselves or be supported there; and
in the case of Greece, Turkey &
Egypt, to recognise that they can support
to receive relief as given as a J.B.S.
is forfeited. The same facilities as regard
passage money will be provided as hitherto.)
In such cases this might be covered by (Mr.

I don't see why we should have a 5
meeting about it.

We can then deal with alleged
favouritism of Maltese over Cypriots,
provisions of the Malta immigration
ord^{ce}. the non-Maltese, & compliments
Mr. Sutton, ^{comparatively} affluence.

If you agree we will go
ahead on these lines.

MF-
10 v.

1. Announcement

I agree that the A/Gov's draft
of the Cyprus announcement is acceptable
and should be approved provided the
other Depts. concerned ~~agree~~ concur.

I also agree that A/Gov. should be
authorised to issue it at his discretion
as early as he likes, and that it need
not wait till after an announcement
in the camps in Entrea. But equally
I think it would be wrong to delay
the announcement in the camps until after
(or at any rate more than 24 hours after)
the announcement in Cyprus. The news
may have leaked out in the camps, but
the inmates have a right to be told
their fate officially not later than
the rest of the world gets it. If their
first real notification was from Reuters
or the P.B.C. there might well be

complaints leading to P.Q.'s and I do not know how the S.I.S. would be able to answer them. We are dealing with British subjects, not with alien refugees, and the House is understandably sensitive on these matters. We must therefore aim at simultaneous release (or near offer), Entrea taking its time from Cyprus. F.O. should be asked to agree + arrange accordingly; and arrangements made for Cyprus to notify all concerned of the release date (not forgetting Inf. Dept. here, who should have a copy when the time comes, though no official release in London is necessary).

That will, I recognise, bring the text of the Entrea release into the category of urgent things. Mr Dutton has done a draft (App. 11 to his report) which he left in Asmara. F.O. should be asked to concur in this + authorise Entrea to issue it on the release date (provided other Depts here concur in its contents). As regards last para of the Entrea announcement, see later.

2. Authority to use equipment etc from Jewish camps

I agree, but to save confusion I think the authority should be given to the A(Gov). (to pass on to Sir G. Collier as necessary) and not in a separate telegram to Sir G. Collier.

No in afraid this has to go to Sir G.C. I have discussed with Mr. Nickless if dispatched accordingly. (The 1st. is not likely to be disposed of with the A(Gov) of 11v

3. Maltese wishing to leave Cyprus after arrival

In (20) we recognized that the Cyprus Govt. could not impose restrictions on their leaving the Island which were not at the time in question imposed on other British subjects resident there (see para 8). There is therefore no need for the A/Gov. to get hot up as in para 5 of (59). I see no objection, and every advantage, in perpetuating in Cyprus whatever practices have been applied about this subject while the party were in Entrea. The trouble is that the W.O. & F.O. had never confessed to us (if indeed they knew) that arrangements as described at para X in para 7 of Mr Dutton's report were already operating. They misled us into supposing that return to Greece etc was heavily frowned on, and allowed us to draft our initial despatch to the A/Gov. on that (misleading) assumption. Depts. concerned should therefore be asked to agree to para 5 of (59). If they are willing to agree quietly, the relevant paragraph in the Entrea announcement (amended as suggested in Miss Fisher's minute) can go out with the rest. If they want time to think it over, then the last para of the Entrea announcement

had better be deleted. It is not essential to tell the camp inmates the form on this point before they leave Entrea, though it would be useful to be able to do so rather than leaving it for the Cyprus Govt. to tell them. But we don't want the announcement timetable held up for clearance of this point if it seems likely to be a slow one.

4

Excluded categories

- (a) Aliens
- (b) Non-Maltese British (if any)
- (c) Repatriable Maltese (if any)

There is no reason why Cyprus should receive any of these, even temporarily. F.O. should be asked, following up (58), to tell Entrea that they should be separated from the rest and not shipped to Cyprus; and we should tell A/Gov. this. Entrea ought really to get this instruction before their announcement is made in the camps, because the draft of it refers to "Maltese" and they may well get questions from the marginal cases as soon as the announcement comes out.

If the position of category (c) needs time to clear up, owing to the

need to dig up Maltese legislation etc., (see no objection in the last report to Cyprus being asked to accept them temporarily in the hope of sending them on to Malta later. Do this if it is simpler. But categories (a) and (b) must certainly stay behind, whatever their ultimate fate.

5. Compts. to Mr Dutton

This could well be noted in a final para if we are going to send a tel. to Cyprus anyhow.

6. "Favouritism"

Agree - consider at leisure.

J.R.B.

10/5 atore.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 60. | Mini J.R. Butler (FO. AAT) | _____ | 12.5.47. |
| 61. | Mini J.R. Butler (FO. AAT) | _____ | 12.5.49 |
| 62 | To Cyprus | Tel 315 Conf
Priority | 14.5.49. |
| 63 | A.S. Bonnici | _____ | 1/5/49 |
| 64 | Tel 71 Depth from F/O to Amara | _____ | 5/5/49 |
| 65 | Tel 81 Depth from Amara to F/O | _____ | 7/5/49 |
| 66 | Commissioner for Judicial Conf - tel 21 | _____ | 11/5/49 |

67 Cyprus — tel 282 Sec — 13/5/49

10

68 Cyprus — tel 283 Sec — 13/5/49

69 bonne Irish Camps — tel 75 Sec — 12/5/49.

70 Cyprus — tel 289 Sec — 16/5/49

71 Cyprus — tel 290 Sec — 16/5/49.

72 Cyprus — tel 285 Sec — 14/5/49.

73 Cyprus — tel 321 Secret — 16/5/49

74 Cyprus — tel 329 Sec — 17/5/49.

(63) (64) (65) — these two latter

connecting with (61) — (67) (70)

& (71) may be put by.

Checked.
Repeated to
Conara.

Would registry check urgently
that (68) has been sent to F. O.
for repetition re Asmara?

Then rewire to C.S.D. Mr S.H.H.
Vaughan: who may know what has
happened to Mr Walker (72) & how
to get hold of him? Please keep tel
in rd throughout! & rewire for (69)

MF

18 v
Jan.

S.823E

Please attach P.F. of G.R. Walker (Pal. Police)
If in circ. could you please obtain it urgently

Mr Vaughan

P/F. of G.R. Walker 72817CR attached

Vaughan
19/5

S823E 20/5/49

* If C.S.D. is able
to sound him direct.
So much the better. We
can't quote a salary
yet.

Miss Fisher -

I have spoken to the Adolph of the
Palatine Police Office about the walkie. Apparently
he called at the P.O. a couple of days ago and
last heard of the possibility of an return to
business to look after the new camp. He started
going down on the river and the Adolph tells me
that the money to look ... and (b) of 721 ... etc."

The present address is

" Wold Dr.

hanson

Malcom Gordon

The P's are working to him to ask him
to keep in touch with the C's in order to change
the date.

18/11/1911

1. name your job + title

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

75 In 1900s - the 1930s

12.5.47

Miss Fisher.

I have removed this 69 to Palestine
papers and I will as you suggest refer the question
to Mr Lloyd.

W. H. H. H.
M/F.

Miss Fisher

Draft opposite covers the two outstanding
points raised in (59). We are asked to supply
the legal reasons why they cannot render Malta
& the draft makes no mention of the current
employment position, position of other distressed
Maltese etc

5.5.49
— to Cyprus. — to Malta. — to 12.5.49.

16. Cyprus Gov. 454 Conf 31.5.49.
of 1948 & Aliens Ordinance
(and 59.)

78. Lower. Jewish Draft — Tel. No. 33 Secret
(Orig. on 1625849)

12549

79. 40. Administration of African Territories

16549

10 to Amara — Tel. No. 97 Draft

16549

10 to C.A. Amara. — Tel. No. 98 Draft

16549

Gov Cyprus Tel 366 2/6 ✓

Mrs. Fisher

Recirculated with FA. on draft of (82).

J. Blawie
2/6

Mr Lloyd agrees that 17, and
not be sent to Cyprus. This being
so (17) (82) inclusion may be
put by.

Ag.
S. J. J. J.

✓

Note

all correspondence issued
by Cyprus in this case to
reference from to ruled vote.
Please keep the copy, info.
of anything which may have
an effect on our liability

[Signature]

To Cyprus. — Tel. No. 385. — 10.6.49.
 Lp on 4240 (Tel.) . 14

60 To Cyprus — Tel. No. 413 Restricted 23.6.49.

65 Extract from Cyprus Political Situation Report for May, 1949
 (Ccy on 90215/49)

M. — ~~29/6~~ — 29.6

29.6
 29.6
 29.6

29/6 chru
 — ✓

66 To Cyprus Tel. No.

86 Cyprus — Tel 067 Savings — 77.49.

87. Cyprus — 3pm — 97.49

88 Somalia 15 50 Tel No 201 147.49

89 00 AT. — Tel No 277244 * 70 — 267.49

90 to typew.

Sel. No. 485.

27.7.49.

15

from

File

on (81).

No action is called for

MF

9 iii

9/a 71 to R. f. Ritchie (Eng.)

9.8.49

✓

92. Inform. Dept. — Reuters' Report — 30.7.49.

Put by. (88, 89, 190
an all outward feds on it. no
action is required).

MF

10 iii

93. Foreign Office (G.H.S. Jackson) - K.7625/107/250 - 21.8.49

1/2 Cyprus Despatch 766 LF

6 SEP 1949

C.I.(N)G.

95. Home Office

Jacks.

20.10.49.

Mr. Fisher

I have extreme sympathy with the

Wife of the Cyprus Mail

? Send to Cyprus 21.5 for appropriate
action

5836
21.10.49

1/2. Copy of Original of letter below
(95), and attached press cuttings, to
go to Gov. Cyprus (F. as proposed).

RF

21.10.49.

Cyprus Despatch 227 LF 25.10.49.
w/enc to 95 incing. 8 press
cuttings reattached

97. Gov. Cyprus. — Despatch No. 123 — 2. 12. 49.

Accounts Department may wish to see 97 which holds out a poor prospect of the Maltese in Cyprus being able to fend for themselves at any date. Should this despatch be sent for information to the Treasury? If not, I suggest that no action is required beyond a short acknowledgement? as in draft opposite.

MF

M. Fisher.
15.12.49.

At the meetings which I attended the Treasury representatives were naturally anxious that all possible steps should be taken to get these people to work and then reduce the charge to be borne by Govt. The local Govt. is doing its best in difficult circumstances but it seems clear that there is saddled with considerable charges for many years to come.

I think that Colonel Russell Edwards should have a copy of (97) and should comment in the proposed reply.

St. John 16/12

S. 319 to put a copy of (97) but not enclosed in 4246 of 15.

I agree but I do not think there is any need to refer the draft to Treasury. I will supply and Col Russell Edwards copies of the comm. for information.

Baynes

16/12/49

✓ Action taken
15/12

✓ 100 - Cyprus Dispatch 267
(ack 77) *Good*

20-12-49.

99. To H.Q. & Edmunds (Tug) - copy of (41) (1/15) - Jungs - 22 12 49

100. To Lt. Col. O.R. Edmunds (Tug) - 2/20/49 - 4150
(Dft. registered on 424C Pico.)

~~Blue~~ No reply to 98
O.O. Flood. 31/1

No reply is expected of 100.

MF
2.1.50

Miss Fyfe

File was But in respect of
no reply to (98) "Continue to wait

1.1.50

(100) shows that the only part
that expected a reply has in
fact been answered on Accounts
pp. Put by. MF

2 ii. *revised*

94853/49
PTI

100.
Accounts Department,
1 Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

Dft a.

4240.

9 January, 1950. 19

IP.17/19/05.

Dear Russell Edmunds,

Would you please refer to the previous correspondence on the question of expenditure in Cyprus in connection with the distressed British subjects of Maltese origin.

Miss Fisher sent you on the 22nd December a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Cyprus in which he reported on the steps so far taken to provide for these evacuees. I now enclose, for your information, as promised in the notes to the draft Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Estimates for 1950/51 - see Subhead C.16, a copy of a Savingsgram No. 1284 from the Governor enclosing details of the approximate expenditure to the 31st October, 1949, and the estimated expenditure from 1st November, 1949, to 31st March, 1950, and 1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951, totalling £91,835.

Authority for expenditure under each item is covered by our despatch No. 41 of the 2nd March, 1949, (which was approved in Field Robinson's letter of the 24th February, 1949) and our telegram No. 248 of the 13th April, 1949 (which was also approved in the Treasury).

The estimated total expenditure to the 31st

/ March,

W. RUSSELL EDMUNDS, ESQ.,
H.M. TREASURY.

March, 1951 is £91,835 and provision has been made under subhead C.16 of the draft Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Estimates for 1950/51 for a round sum of £92,000.

As we have indicated in our despatch to the Governor No. 267 of 20/12/49 we are satisfied that the problem is being handled by Cyprus in the best possible way and that steps are being taken to ensure that the charges to be borne by His Majesty's Government are being kept to the lowest possible figure.

In your letter of the 6th July, you asked me to let you know whether we would be able to make a substantial payment to Cyprus before the close of the financial year. In this connection you will see from our statement of savings and excesses enclosed in our official letter (191B A/ca) of the 29th December that we shall not find it possible to do so.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) G. Bryant).

COLONIAL OFFICE,

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

90853/49

Your Ref: 1230/149

CYPRUSNO. 261

20 December, 1949

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 12 of the 2nd December reporting on the Maltese evacuees transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. It is clear from your despatch that these persons are likely to prove no less hard to dispose of than was originally feared and that you expect considerable difficulty in inducing even the able bodied to support themselves. It is equally clear, however, that the problem is being handled with vigour and efficiency; and I am sure that all possible steps will be taken to keep the charge to be borne by the Colonial Office to the lowest possible figure: a matter of some importance in the present difficult financial position. I should be grateful if you would keep those concerned aware of my appreciation of their efforts.

3. I should be glad to receive the detailed estimate of expenditure to 31st March, 1951 as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

601B; Wt. 36325 814 50m. 1/49 C.N.Ld. 748

C. O.

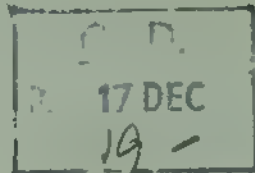
Miss. *15 xii*
 Mr. *810 S. 16/12*
 Mr. *Bryant 17/12*
 Mrs. *16 xii*
 Mr. *16 xii*

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State

Your Reference 1230/149.DRAFT. DESPATCH.

Sir,

GOVERNOR,

CYPRUS.

No 267

(97)

I am ^{acknowledged} directed by Mr. Secretary Greech-Jon
 to ~~accept~~ your despatch No. 123 of the 2nd
 December reporting on the Maltese evacuees
 transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. It is ^{very clear} ~~clear~~ from your despatch that
 these persons are likely to prove no less
^{hard} ~~difficult~~ to dispose of than was originally
 feared. ^{and} I note that you expect considerable
 difficulty in inducing even the able bodied
 to support themselves. It is ^{very} ~~clear~~, ~~however~~
~~considerable~~ however, that the problem is being
 handled with vigour and efficiency. ^{when} I should
 be grateful if you would make those concerned
 aware of my appreciation of their efforts.

I am, Sir, have 84

Your obedient servant,

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy to 5.3.49.

Copy of 97 sites
 C-Trans. (Col Russell
 Annas) up (99)

3. I should be glad to receive
 the detailed estimate of expenditure to
 31st March, 1951, as soon as possible.

10185

CYPRUS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

No. 123NICOSIA, 2nd December, 1949.

Sir,

I have the honour to report on the steps so far taken to provide for the Maltese Evacuees who were transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. Although these people were accepted with the intention of assimilating them into the life of the Island it was first necessary to concentrate them in a camp where they could remain until plans for their more permanent settlement were ready. One of the guard camps close to the former Jewish Illegal Immigrant camp at Kylotymbou near Larnaca was chosen but, as existing huts were insufficient to accommodate the numbers, additional buildings had to be taken from other parts of the Jewish Camps and re-erected on the selected site. In addition to living quarters, offices, sick quarters, recreation rooms, a school room, and a dining hall were provided. Supplies of water and electricity were arranged and simple furniture such as bedsteads, tables and chairs was bought. The accommodation is not luxurious and probably below the standard of the camp they occupied in Eritrea but it is adequate for its temporary purpose. Communal messing was arranged through a contractor but after their arrival the Maltese, who in Eritrea received a food allowance and catered and cooked for themselves, asked to be allowed to follow the former practice and their request was granted from the 1st September.

The Right Honourable

ARTHUR GLENN JONES, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

/3.

3. A Mr. G.R. Walker, formerly of the Palestine Police, who had come to Cyprus in 1948 in charge of a party of German Templar refugees was appointed as Camp Commandant and took up his duties on the 1st July, before the arrival of the Maltese, in order to superintend preparations. The Chief Administrator, Eritrea, was informed that the camp would be ready by the end of July and it was agreed that the party should not arrive before then. He was asked to ensure that all the immigrants were inoculated against smallpox, typhoid and yellow fever.

4. The camp was ready for occupation before the end of July and this proved fortunate. The authorities in Eritrea first stated that the party would arrive early in August, later named the 1st August as the date, then advanced it to the 31st July, and finally, in a telegram delivered after the party's arrival, changed it to the 30th July: the party arrived on the 29th July. It was then discovered that reduced shipping rates had been obtained on the strength of a promise that the disembarkation would be completed within 12 hours of arrival. This condition was fulfilled but, in the absence of proper notice of the time of arrival, at much inconvenience. Similar inconvenience had been caused earlier by lack of precise information from Eritrea on the movements of a small advance party which travelled by air.

5. The Maltese were installed in their camp with some grumbling from themselves and hostile comment from the local press such as had been expected. The original announcement about the party was made on the eve of the municipal elections and therefore received less attention than it would have done otherwise. The arrival of the persons gave the newspapers an opportunity to attack the Government

and criticism was more sustained and detailed than before. A representative selection of extracts from the daily summary of the local press is enclosed.

6. The party has now been in the Colony for four months and has settled down without giving much trouble. They are being provided with the same facilities as they had in India and are being paid similar allowances adjusted to conform with local conditions. (The subsistence allowance at first paid proved to be excessive and served to deter those who were offered employment from accepting; it was therefore reduced). A camp school has been started for the children and arrangements have been made for a priest to attend to the spiritual needs of the community. Day to day administration is in the hands of the Camp Commandant who is responsible to the Commissioner, Larnaca. The Commissioner of Labour has been charged with the task of formulating plans for permanent settlement and he will be responsible for putting them into action when they have been approved.

1424/4 Dec. - 7. In response to your telegram No. 674 an
1424 Dec estimate of past and proposed expenditure has been sent
to you by my telegram No. 549. I shall furnish in the
near future details of the amounts mentioned and
outline the proposals for settlement and training
which will account for part of the expenditure. It is
my aim to liquidate the camp as soon as possible and to
disperse the occupants throughout the Island. The aged,
sick, and unemployables should be found homes and paid
relief allowances; those who are able to work must be
trained and placed in employment, probably with the
assistance of resettlement grants.

8. All males and females between the ages of 16 and 60 have been interviewed and registered. An analysis of the registration shows that only some 120 persons out of a total of 394 are employable: some of these have been craftsmen or might become craftsmen, and some have tried small businesses but none has ever worked on the land. Many of them still hope to be allowed to emigrate to the Dominions or reiterate their desire to return to the Indians. Efforts made to place in employment some of the men who do not require any training have failed. The candidates refused the jobs offered stating that they were not interested in finding work in Cyprus. This is one of the problems to which the Commissioner of Labour is attending and, as is mentioned above, a resolution has already been made in the subsistence allowance in order to induce the able-bodied to look for employment.

I must repeatedly impress of the extreme unlikelihood of these people believing any form of self-support. They will not be generally susceptible to the local population and, as experience of them here confirms earlier reports of their shiftlessness, I cannot encourage any hopes that may be entertained that our efforts to assimilate them will meet with success.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
W. H. D. Servant,

W. H. D.
Governor

"Hur Sez" (18.5.49).

An editorial note sharply criticizes the Government decision to allow the resettlement in Cyprus of some 400 refugees - vide yesterday's Press Release. "At a time when Cyprus is undergoing economic convulsions and unemployment and thousands of its inhabitants are flocking to Australia in search of work, to allow strangers, especially those who have no means to support themselves, to settle in Cyprus is quite unreasonable." The note recalls the desperation and misery of several trades-men after the competition created by the refugees admitted into the Island during the second world war, and considers that the prospective refugees should not be allowed to practise their trades or professions and that the number limit of 400 should not be exceeded, in order not to worsen the economic condition of the Island.

"Nesos Kyprikos Phylax" (19.5.49).

writes under the title "The hotel of Cyprus": "The official release which announces, with an air of sympathy and kindness, the settlement in the Island of 400 persons of Mediterranean origin, descendants of the Maltese, has reinforced the view which we, the Cypriots, formed a long time ago that the ruling Power regards this Island as a hospice where it can accommodate whomsoever it wishes and whenever it so wishes. In no way are we an anti-foreign people, nor do we remain apathetic at the sight of persons who fall victims to Fate and to an unfavorable course of events. But to regard Cyprus as an hotel where the ruling Power can accommodate those who command its gratitude or whom it wants to support touches our sensitiveness. The most natural course for these "descendants of Maltese" would be to be settled in the country of their ancestors no matter if they have forgotten the tongue spoken in the Island to which they belong ethnologically: or, at least, in England the interests of which they have served in this or the other way. Malta provides a Mediterranean environment, like that of Cyprus, and it is suitable for men in whose veins the Maltese blood is running. Or are there any reasons why these men of Maltese extraction should be undesirable in Malta and consequently unwelcome? In any case, we think that a further explanation must be given by Government for the enlightenment of Public opinion, which does not agree with the relocation of Cyprus together with the other British Colonial States and with its conversion into an hotel with the label "Cyprus": an hotel where hospitality is given to-day to dangerous Jews and German prisoners of war and will be given to-morrow to British families in a "military village" and the day after to-morrow to the descendants of Maltese and we do not know to whom else."

"Hellenika" (20.5.49).

reproduces the following from the Athenian newspaper "Echos": "The announced settlement of the Maltese in Cyprus, who had been transferred to British from Greece and Turkey in 1941 as a result of the German advance, is not, of course, going to alter the national character of the Greek large Island. But it constitutes a characteristic manifestation of the mentality of the British, who regard Cyprus as a colony which they can use

for anything. In the present case the most natural course would be for the Maltese to be sent to Malta."

An editorial note states: "So we shall extend hospitality to 400 men who, most probably, did not know the existence of Cyprus until some time ago. And we shall offer them the chance "of returning to normal life," i.e. of settling permanently in Cyprus since this is the decision of Government which has been approved by the London Authorities. Where these foreigners lived before is not made clear in the recent release which suggests that some of them were settled in Greece and the European Turkey. To Greece - the release adds - it is impossible for them to return owing to the particular conditions existing there, but the release does not mention Turkey altogether, which neither know the war nor is it sustaining the armed Slav plot. So Cyprus was regarded as the most suitable place since, what's more, these future inmates of the Island have forgotten their Maltese tongue and they speak only Greek and Turkish. That which is going to follow can be understood easily. Returning "to the normal life" in the course of time - what matters if the Island is scourged by unemployment and poverty? - they will form a small nucleus of foreign origin and so the "minorities" in Cyprus will be increased. Did not the never-to-be-forgotten Baron Winston speak, in his famous Message, about minorities, in the plural, while it is a fact known to all that the existence of only one minority is recognized in Cyprus?".

"Ethnos" (28.7.49).

An Ed.resents the transfer of 400 Maltese refugees to Cyprus. It says: "Why not send these people to Malta? Astute Albion believes that by the dumping process it will be possible to alter the Island's ethnological character and that in the event of a referendum the votes of foreigners might be secured for the purpose of strengthening the anti-Enosis struggle. But this method is out of date. The people's feelings cannot be altered by such processes".

"Eleutheria" (28.7.49).

Like "Ethnos" this paper, too,resents the presence of Maltese refugees in Cyprus. It says: "The official statement says that these refugees will be installed at Xylotymbou for the present. What does this mean? It means that they will be made to learn Greek and will later be thrown amidst the native community in order that they might compete with the Cypriots in the struggle for bread. If this is the unconfessed object why, then, are they being punished by being shut up in an internment camp? Maybe this is another case of undesirables. If so, why are they brought to Cyprus and not taken to St. Helena?".

"Ethnos" (29.7.49).

An Ed. asks for an official answer to the natural question of why the British Government has chosen Cyprus for the Maltese refugees and not their own country, Malta, where they would surely be much more content.

"Neos Demokratis" (30.7.49).

An Ed. emphasizes the alarm felt generally in Cyprus on account of information that the Maltese refugees will be employed on works in connection with the Island's general electrification scheme. It says: "We think that an official statement on this particular point is essential".

"Neos Kypraios Phylax" (30.7.49):

An Ed. repeats this paper's expression of resentment at the transfer of Maltese refugees to the Hotel called Cyprus without the host's consent".

"Eleftheria" (31.7.49).

Another Editorial censures the British Government's action of "transplanting" Maltese refugees to Cyprus. "These people will eventually become permanent residents of the Island in order to compete with us in the struggle for bread and to join the anti-Brosis campaign, to the ruling Power's glory", says the Editorial.

"Protevousa" (30.7.49).

Like all the other Greek papers this one, too, is scared by the rumour that Maltese refugees may be employed on works in connection with the Island's electrification scheme.

Note by Press Officer: Sunday Morning papers carry an official contradiction of this rumour.

"Anexartitis" (30.7.49):

Asks why the Maltese refugees have not been taken to Malta.

"Ethnos" (31.7.49). An Editorial expresses this paper's bitter resentment at the transfer of Maltese refugees to Cyprus "instead of asylum being offered in the Island to 1,500 Greek children condemned to slow death in Poland". The article says: "We assure the Maltese refugees that as a civilized people we have nothing but sympathy for them, but we cannot conceal our abhorrence of our rulers' open and secret plans for the de-Hellenization of this most Hellenic Island".

"Anexartitis" (1.8.49). This paper continues to give vent to resentment against the establishment of Maltese refugees in Cyprus to compete with native breadwinners.

"Protevousa" (2.8.49). Another Editorial criticizes the transfer of Maltese refugees to Cyprus. It says that these people should be sent back to Turkey, their country of origin, and that if Turkey is so ungrateful as to refuse them, they should be taken to Malta.

95.

30

With the Compliments of the
Under Secretary of State

Home Office,
Whitehall. 20. 10. 49.

R.62-48

Saving. 90853/49.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of

CYPRUS.

Date..... 9th September, 1949.

No. 766 Saving. CONFIDENTIAL

Your Ref. S.52/46.

Your confidential savinggram No. 667 of the 7th July, 1949.

Maltese.

If the question of alleged discrimination in favour of Maltese as against Cypriots is raised I think that the best answer is that evacuation was on a voluntary basis for all British subjects. It may well be that in fact a larger number of Maltese than Cypriots wished to avail themselves of the opportunity of evacuation more particularly in the case of countries such as Greece (and indeed Turkey) where it would have been harder for them to adjust themselves to wartime conditions on the same basis as natives of the country concerned. It can, however, be categorically denied that there was any intentional discrimination either between Cypriots and Maltese or between Cypriots, Maltese and other British subjects.

Secor.



FOREIGN OFFICE

S.W.1

(K 7623/107/250)

31st August, 1946.

Dear Miss Fisher,

91 Please refer to your letter of the 26th August (reference 8906./3/46) to His Majesty's
discrimination against Cypriots in the war-time
evacuation scheme from South West Europe.

There was, of course, no discrimination in
favour of Maltese as against Cypriots. The principle
on which the scheme was based was that all British
subjects wishing it should be evacuated. The fact
that evacuation was voluntary would thus seem to
dispose of any question of discrimination.

It may be of some assistance to you if we
mention that we have in our files a letter from
Mr. Acheson to Mr. Allechin Pasha, Colonial Office
reference 1212/10/41 of the 12th April, 1941, which
deals with the evacuation of Colonial British subjects.

Yours sincerely,

(G.H.D. Jackson)

11 511 M. Lloyd Miss H.S. 33
MALTESE

LARNACA CYPRUS JULY 29 REUTER - A PARTY OF 407 REFUGEES OF MALTESE DESCENT, WHO WERE EVACUATED TO ERITREA FROM GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE 1941 GERMAN ADVANCE, ARRIVED HERE TODAY.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LAST MAY ACCEPTED THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR TRANSFER AND MAINTENANCE IN CYPRUS, WHERE IT WAS FELT THEY WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF RESUMING NORMAL LIFE.

THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AGREED TO GIVE THEM PERMANENT SANCTUARY. THE REFUGEES, MOSTLY OLD AND INFIRM, WERE TODAY TAKEN TO THE FORMER JEWISH DETENTION CAMP AT XYLOTYMBOU.

REUTER

1731

sent

91

34

89024/3/49

The Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

9th August, 1949.

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Maltese ex Eritrea

The Cyprus authorities have made a most totisome enquiry about the past history of their Maltese arrivals. They say that the question may be raised locally whether at the time of the evacuation from South East Europe there was no discrimination in favour of Maltese as against Cypriots. The issue is not regarded as of outstanding importance; the Cyprus authorities are anxious to be in a position to make what they describe as "a reasoned statement on the subject" if challenged.

We again discover that we have no information here on this point. Is there any in the Foreign Office? If not can you make any suggestion as to what the Governor should say if the subject is brought up?

Yours sincerely,

MF

(MARY FISHER)

K.G. RITCHIE, ESQ.,
CONSULAR DEPARTMENT,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

Ferry

Printed in Cairo 277 2 35
530101 277 2 35

Registration copy.

485

Following from Amman to Foreign Office Dept No
289 of 26th July. Addressed Governor Cyprus
No 8 repeated for information to Foreign Office,
Cairo (Embassy), and BNEO.

Enclain.

Gouverneur Nicolas

Further action

Complete and return F.O. slip.

C.O. 213, 149.

Send copies to:-

Secretary
Mr. Webber
Sir T. Llew
Mr. Rees-Williams
Mr. C. G.
Sir S.
Mr. Gore
Mr. East
Mr. Rogers
Mr. Galworthy
Mr. Bennett
Brig. Fotherby
Colonial Attaché
Mr. Bligh
Accounts Branch
Mr. Holding
Room 415
Room 410

N/C.

Registry

28201

313.

EN CLAIR.FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

NO. 289 Depth.

D. 7.17 a.m. 26th July, 1949.

26th July, 1949.

R. 10.31 a.m. 26th July, 1949.

A
Addressed to Governor Cyprus telegram No. 8 repeated for information to Foreign Office, Cairo (Embassy) and B.M.E.O.

✓ M.V. Surriento carrying 408 Maltese evacuees sailed Massawa 25 July expected arrive Larnaka 31 July, but possible she will arrive day earlier. Special rates have been obtained as result our giving undertaking that disembarkation will be completed within twelve hours of arrival therefore grateful you ensure no delay. Under existing conditions it was not possible carry out 100 percent examination for undeclared currency immediately prior to embarkation but consider unlikely any large sums involved *✓*

F.O. pass Cyprus as my telegram 8.

✓ Copy sent to Colonial Office for transmission to Cyprus *✓*

Action: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.
C.A. Dept. (4 copies)

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

SA020/3/10

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

O. E. S. Lloyd Esq.,

Colonial Office.

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

26th July 1949.

EN CLAIR

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 277 Depth.

D.9.34 a.m. 21st July, 1949.

21st July, 1949.

R.11.30 a.m. 21st July, 1949.

Addressed to Governor Cyprus, repeated for information to F.O. and Cairo.

Begins. Confirm 408 Maltese evacuees embark M.V. Surriento at Massawa 24th July. Due arrive Larnaka 1st August. Party includes following persons being repatriated Greece and Turkey via Cyprus. Saverio Borg and family. Marg Buttigeig, Josephine Harrison, Constantine Infanti and Catherine Mizzi for Turkey. Spriridon Redith and family and Pareskevula Busuttil for Greece.

Evangelos Busuttil and wife do not now wish to go to Greece and have refused sign underaking to repay, so will be included in main party for Cyprus. Onrouting of Greek and Turkish parties being arranged this end, and expected take place within week of arrival Cyprus, but grateful you inform Consul-General, Cairo, date of departure Cyprus and arrival destination as soon as known in order arrangements may be made for their reception.

F.O. please pass to Cyprus as my telegram No. 7.

(Copy sent to Telegram Section, Colonial Office, for transmission to Cyprus)

Action: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T. (Internal)
C.A. Dept. (4 copies)

EN CLAIR

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 261 Depth. D.7.19 a.m. 15th July, 1949.
14th July, 1949. R.10.02 a.m. 15th July, 1949.

Following for Governor, Cyprus.

Maltese evacuee advance party Frank Buttigieg
and John Gallagher arrive Nicosia 27th July from
Cairo by B.O.A.C.

F.O. please pass to Cyprus as my telegram No. 7.

(Copy sent to Telegram Section, Colonial Office,
for transmission to Cyprus).

Action: C.A. Dept.

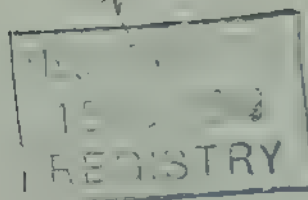
Distribution: C.C.A.

C.A. Dept. (Mr. Doane)
Consular Dept. (F.O.) (Mr. S.F. Croft)
Colonial Office (Mr. D.E.S. Lloyd)

Cyprus Ref: No. S.52/46.

The Acting Governor of Cyprus presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, with reference to the latter's telegram No.437 of 5th July, 1949, has the honour to forward, for information, a copy of telegram No.202 dated 7th July, 1949, on the subject of the Maltese evacuees, addressed to the Chief Administrator, Asmara.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
TROODOS, CYPRUS,
9th July, 1949.



TELEGRAM.

From GOVERNOR,
CYPRUS

To Chief Administrator
Asmara.

41

Dated 7. 7. 29

Sent at 1320 in G.I.C. by JFM

No. 202.

Your telegram No. 225 to Foreign Office. Encl. 3.

First week in August confirmed as suitable.

Disembarkation to be at Larnaca. Presence in advance of one or two capable persons (preferably representative of Camp Committee) most advisable. Unless letter mentioned in your paragraph 4 likely to arrive very early, please telegraph revised number. Also grateful to learn whether evacuees have their own crockery and cutlery.

Governor.

2 extra copies.

Cyprus Ref: No. S.52/46.

C.O. Ref: No.89024/3/49.

From the Acting Governor of Cyprus.
To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TELEGRAM No. 667. SAVING. CONFIDENTIAL.
DATED 7th July, 1949.

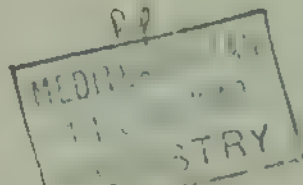
(7c) Your Confidential Savingram No.459 of 31st
May.

Maltese.

I am grateful for the information given in the first two paragraphs of your savingram under reply regarding immigration into Malta.

2. With regard to the question of possible discrimination in favour of the Maltese at the time of their evacuation from South East Europe, I do not regard this issue as one of outstanding importance; nevertheless if the charge were made, I am anxious to be in a position to make a reasoned statement on the subject, and I should be most grateful for any information you can give me on this point.

3. The announcement that permanent asylum in Cyprus would be given to these people evoked a number of unfavourable articles in the press. However it was made just before the recent Municipal elections and as a result the criticism was neither as vociferous nor so voluminous as might have been expected at any other time. Nevertheless, I expect the subject will attract a good deal of attention when the Maltese actually arrive in the Island.



Acting Governor.

Extract from *Chinese Political Situation Report*.
(May, 1949).

43

(Aug. 1949)

15. The announcement that Communist armies would be given in 1949 to 200,000 Chinese of Chinese origin from Japan and Korea evoked a number of favourable articles in the press, but the criticism was neither vociferous nor so venomous as might have been the case had not both parties been almost exclusively concerned with mutual vituperation over the municipal elections that little time was left for attacking the Government.

Cooled & sent
1145 h.
23. 6. 49.
44

Registration copy at once

No. 413 Restricted

DRAFT
REPETITION
TELEGRAM
Code.

Following from Chief Administrator
Admara to Foreign Office No 85 of 17d
Time for Governor Cyprus as No 30.

~~Telephone (D. T. R.)~~

Governor Cyprus.

Begins.
(here take in portion in
square brackets of text
attached). 2113.

Further action.

1. Complete and return P.O. slip.
2. C.D. Tels. 449
Please send copies to:-

Secretary of State
Mr. Webber
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. Ross-Williams
Sir C. J. J. J.
Mr. Poynton
Mr. Gordon Brown
Mr. Hallwood
Mr. Rogers
Mr. Colston
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Johnson
Colonial Secretary
Mr. Bigg
Accounts Branch
Mr. Holding
Rm. 445
Rm. 440

Code

Chief Administrator.

No. 85 D. 7.6 a.m. 2nd June, 1949
 17th June, 1949 D. 9.3 a.m. 2nd June, 1949

Following for the Governor of Cyprus.

[Your telegram 188 June 16th: Maltese
 refugees.

Unable to give you firm date of arrival of
 refugees in Cyprus at present. Subject to confirmation. But we are expecting
 to move them during the first half of August.

Will give you firm date as soon as
 arrangements for shipping completed.]

Foreign Office Pass No. 1111 as by telegram
 o. 30.

[Copy sent to Telegram Section Colonial
 Office for retransmission to ~~Malta~~
Malta]

For 89024/3/44

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

46

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Draft on
4244 c aks

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No.

702413149

To:—

7A2 CYPRUS

Sent.

47

Repeated to:—

19.15 hours

21.6.1949

Priority:—

For transmission:—

Nil

☒ In Clear

Reply urgently required.

Code

Important.

Cypher

Immediate.

Most Immediate.

No.

366

Restricted

Confidential

Secret

Top Secret

and Personal

U.S. of S.

U.S. of S.

15)

My Tel. No 343

WALKER.

Person named is now
on way back to Cyprus
expecting to arrive about
12th Jan. Address 22
SALIMAS ROAD FAMA GUTA.

on —

ion:—

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

20.4.49 48

CA 313.

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.)

CYPHER/OTP.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO C.A. ASMARA.

No. 98 Depth.

D. 2.35 p.m. 16th May, 1949.

14th May, 1949.

SECRET.

My telegram No. 97. Following is text of statement :

The Cyprus Government at the request of His Majesty's Government has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment. Whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation, and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hither to.

Originator : C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.

Mr. O.E.S. Lloyd (Colonial Office)

Mr. K. Ritchie (Consular Dept. Foreign Office.)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

49

C.A. 313.

CYPHER/OTP.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ASMARA.

No. 97 Depth.

D. 2.40 p.m. 16th May, 1949.

14th May, 1949.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegram No. 6 [of 6 April: transfer of
Maltese evacuees to Cyprus.] My telegram No. 98
contains text of a statement which you should issue
at a time to be concerted between you and Cyprus
Government either as soon as possible after or
simultaneously with Cyprus Government's own
announcement.

2. This statement will not repeat not apply
to families referred to in your tels. Nos. 62 and
61. Disposal of outstanding cases of this category
still under consideration.

Originator: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.

Mr. O.E.S. Lloyd.(Colonial Office.)

Mr. K. Ritchie.(Consular Dept.
Foreign Office.)

CA 313.

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

79

50

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

O.E.S. Lloyd, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

16.5.49

M144 36667-5

COPY

51

British Administration,
ASMARA.

No. S/MA/36/117.

9th May, 1949.

Dear Department,

MALTESE EVACUEES

I am directed to refer to my letter of even reference dated 5th April, 1949, and to say that it is regretted that owing to an oversight the Nominal Roll attached thereto was incomplete.

The attached amendment should be inserted between Family No. 90 evacuee No. 266 ELLUL Genovieve and Family No. 102 evacuee No. 287 GALDIES John.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.)

SECRETARIAT

F.O.A.A.T.,
Devonshire House,
LONDON, W.1.

No.	NAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	AGE	PLACE & DATE OF BIRTH	SEX & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TYPE & NUMBER OF PASSPORT	DATE & PLACE OF ENTRY	EDUCATION	DATE & LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT	RELIGION	LANGUAGE	OTHER
467	ELIOT	HAOU DANIEL	16	SALONICA 19.1.31	SALONICA GREECE	B.I.P.N°2211	ADRIAS 20.10.47	M I L			GREEK	ENGLISH
468	ELLUL	REINHOLD	16	SALONICA 8.7.33	SALONICA	MOTHER'S PASS N° 22129		STUDENT			GREEK	ENGLISH
469	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
470	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
471	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
472	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
473	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
474	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
475	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
476	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
477	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
478	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
479	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
480	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
481	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
482	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
483	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
484	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
485	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
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498	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
499	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK
500	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	DOIMBATCHE 18.19.43							ENGLISH	GREEK

INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

53

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM COMMISSIONER FOR JEWELRY, CYPRUS.

D. 12th May, 1949.

R. 12th " " 12.45 hrs.

No. 33 Secret.

66 Your telegram No. 21.

Disposal of Camps.

Am advising you fully by airmail on
points and policy involved.

H 531

Mrs Fisher

H. 539.54

89024/3/49

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies. CYPRUS.

To the Officer Administering the Government of...

Date 31 May, 1949.

No. 459

Saving.

Your confidential savinggram No. 454 of 3rd May.

Maltese.

1. Your paragraph 6. Entry into Malta is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance (No. 1 of 1948) and the Aliens Ordinance. (Copies attached for ease of reference). Please see in particular Sections 1, 3 (a) and 38 (1) of the former.
2. Immigration is a reserved matter under the Malta (Constitution) Letters Patent 1947. i.e. it falls to be dealt with by the Maltese Imperial Government. It might be thought that the Governor could use the overriding powers granted under Section 38 of the Immigration Ordinance to permit the entry of some of the party. This is not so however for at the time of the grant of restored internal self-government His Majesty's Government gave an undertaking "that they will not use their control of immigration to facilitate the entry into Malta of displaced persons or refugees without the consent of the Maltese Government." This undertaking was given to allay fears expressed by the Maltese that Malta might be used as a dumping ground if control was to be retained by the Imperial authorities and it was, in effect, a condition of their agreement to immigration being a reserved subject.

3.

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of.....

Date

No. Saving.

3. Your paragraph 2. I regret I am unable at the moment to find any evidence on the question of alleged discrimination in favour of the Maltese at the time of their evacuation from South East Europe. How much importance do you attach to this?

4. Has there been any local reaction to your announcement?

1. Your para 6. Entry into Malta is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance (No 1 of 1948) and the Aliens Ordinance. (Copies attached for ease of reference. Please see in particular Sections 5, 3(a), and 38(1) of the former.

2.

(Copies
attached
draft)

C. O.

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Permit. U.S. of S.

Mr. _____

Parly. U.S. S.

Mr. _____

Minister of State

Mr. _____

Secretary of State

Your Reference _____

DRAFT.

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No. 57

89024/3/49

To:—

Acting Governor
Cyprus.

Sent.

hours

31 MAY 1949

194

Mr. Lloyd 25/5

MRP Fisher 25.5

Mr.

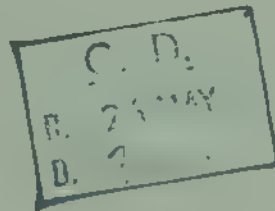
Mr.

Su

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

Para as amended.
Repeated to:—

Priority:—

Nil.

Reply urgently required.

Important.

Immediate.

Most Immediate.

To be transmitted:—

In Clear

Code

Cypher

No. 459

Restricted.—

X Confidential

Secret.

Top Secret

and Personal

(59) Your confidential telegram No 454 of 3rd May
please.

Para 8 Entry into Malta is controlled by
the Immigration Ordinance ^{No} ~~Ordinance~~ 1 of 1948
and the Access Ordinance. ~~Not a law~~
(Copies attached for ease of reference) it will
of the former, ^{Section 36} ~~Section 36~~
it been from Section 3(a) the party in
Entry ^{would be} ~~is~~ ^{classified as} ~~is~~ ^{admitted} immigrants
Further, not one would be able to meet
the conditions imposed by Section 38(i)

2. Immigration is a reserved matter under the
Malta (Constitution) Letters Patent 1947, i.e. it
falls to be dealt with by the Maltese Imperial
Government. It might be ~~argued~~ ^{argued} that
that the Governor could use the overriding powers granted
under Section 36 of the Immigration Ordinance ^{to} ~~grant~~ the Governor overriding
powers which in this case would enable him
to permit the entry of ~~all~~ ^{however} some of the
party. This is not so for at the time
of the grant of reserved ^{internal} ~~self~~ government
H.M.S. gave an undertaking

Adams 2nd
Immigration Ord.
copy attached

Distribution:—

Further action:—

not use their control of immigration to facilitate
the entry into Malta of displaced persons or
refugees without the consent of the Maltese Government"

(white paper)

expressed by the Maltese

This undertaking was given to allay fears that
that Malta might be used as a dumping ground if control was lost
many distressed non-Maltese born Maltese subjects

from the Eastern Mediterranean would be dumped in
Malta and the present party was much in mind
when the undertaking was given. Whilst my

retained by the
Imperial authorities
and was, in effect,
a condition of their
acceptance agreement
to immigration
being a reserved subject.

information on the precise status of those persons

whom it is considered must be available is
probably incomplete. I feel certain that none
could meet the conditions imposed by the
Immigration Ordinance.

your

3. Para 2. I regret I am unable to trace
at the moment to find any evidence on the question of alleged
any reference to discrimination in favour of
the Maltese was shown as the form of
their evacuation from both East and West.
How much importance do you attach
to this?

4. Has there been any local
reaction to your announcement?

SECRET.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75
59

29028/3/48

10.1.48

TO (11-11-48) (10.1.48.)

FROM 29028/3/48, 1948. 08. A. 100.

NO. 3/1. 11.1.1948

11.1.1948 11.1.1948 11.1.1948

1.1.48

11.1.1948 11.1.1948 11.1.1948
11.1.1948 11.1.1948 11.1.1948
11.1.1948 11.1.1948 11.1.1948

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary

File No.

60

89024/3/49

Sent.

0300 hours

12/5/1961

C.O.

To: OAG CYPRUS

Repeated to:—

Mr. Fisher 21 v. change

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Sir _____

Priority:—

Nd

Reply urgently required

Important.

Immediate.

Most Immediate

For transmission

In Clear

Code

Cypher

No. 343

Restricted

Confidential

Secret

Top Secret
and Personal

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

Your secret tel. No 285

WALKER

Answer to both last and
questions is yes. Present
address 11 WOLD STREET,
HARTON, HALTON, YORKS.
(or care Palestine Police
Office)

Distribution:—

Further action:—

Receiver. H. H. H. H.
Mr. Nicklin

1-22/2015

Reykjaland
sent
2015 hno
17/5

74
61

Reykjaland Copy

329

Secur.

Following from Armenia to
F.O. no 70 17 May updated to
Cyprus as no 2.

Immediate

Gouverneur hnoia

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

~~SAVINGRAM~~

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

To: O. A. S.
Cyprus.

File No.

89024/3/49

Sent.

63

1845 hours

16/5/1949

No.

321

Restricted.
Confidential
* Secret.
Top Secret
and Personal

Mr. Lloyd 16/5/49

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S

Parly. U.S. of S

S. of S.

Repeated to:—

Priority:—

Nil.
Reply urgently required.
Important
* Immediate
Most Immediate.

To be transmitted:—

In Clear

Code

* Cypher

OTF

Ym Tel No. 290. (71)

Mallere.

Amendment was telegraphed to Chief

Administrator in F.O. Telegrams Nos

97 Depth and 98 Depth of the 14th May

Distribution:—

Further action:—

Rec'd to H531

to filing

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

~~Cypher~~(O.T.P.)

Amended

FROM CYPRUS(O.A.G.)

D. 14th May, 1949

R. 14th " " 12.15 hrs.

No. 285 Secret

My confidential priority savingram No. 454.

Maltese.

In connection with preparations of camp site referred to in paragraph 7 of my savingram under reference, I am anxious to appoint suitable Commandant without delay. I consider Gilbert Rudolf Walker, formerly Palestine Police, who was in charge of Templar German refugees in Cyprus would be suitable. Person named recently proceeded U.K. leaving no address here. Grateful if he could be contacted by you through the Crown Agents or Palestine Police Office and it could be ascertained (a) if he ~~prefers~~ ^{proposes} to return to Cyprus (b) whether he would be interested in appointment suggested. I should be glad to have telegraphic reply on both points together with present address of person named.

INWARD TELEGRAM

71

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

66

Cypher (O.T.P.)

COPY

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 16th May 1949.

R. 16th " "

11.35 hrs



IMMEDIATE

No. 290 Secret.

Your telegram No. 615.

Maltese.

1611

70)

...see by immediately preceding telegram
...of Minister of State received through you.
...of Maltese announcement given in
...of your telegram ... reply has not
...reference to ... if it may now be

70
67

INWARD TELEGRAM

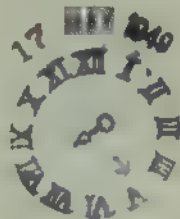
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

pher (O T P)

1947 AUG 26 (6:3)

U. 7th Nov 1909.

11.55 hrE



For your information, the Chief Administrator has been advised
for your information regarding:-

1000

1. 2. 3.

11

62)

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a formal address, and it begins with the words "My Countrymen," which is a traditional opening for such a document. The letter discusses the state of the Union and the challenges facing the country at the time.

Journal of Interpersonal Violence 26(10) 1978-1995
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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

68

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

U 13th May 1949.

R 13th " " 18 00 hrs.



RE: LITTY

No. 283 Secret.

Following for Chief Administrator Eritrea, No. 154
for your information. Begins

Maltese

Sensitive date 1st July for arrival of party
which will give adequate time for preparation
of camp which involves erection of many additional huts.
Exact estimate of time required difficult to make before
project is made public and official announcement not yet
cleared with H.M.G. but grateful to learn whether you
would like to see P.A. being 31st July.

INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

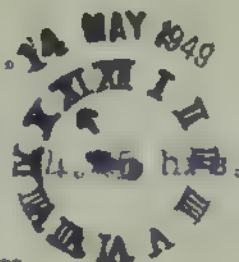
67
69

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 13th May, 1949.

R. 13th " " "



IMMEDIATE

No. 282 Secret

(59)

My priority savingram No. 454.

Maltese.

Possibility of press securing information about transfer before official announcement is causing me concern. It would be very embarrassing. Further, preparation of camp cannot begin in advance of publicity, and I have already had to suggest postponement of arrival date tentatively 19th June B.A.E. (see my immediately following telegram for details).

2. Grateful therefore for very early authority to issue statement.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM S. OF S. COLONIES

89024/3/49

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO COMMISSIONER FOR JEWISH CAMPS, CYPRUS

Sent 11th May 1949. 15.00 hrs.

No.21 Confidential.

Disposal of Camps.

No repeat no objection to making available British administration camp site plus necessary material to Cyprus Government for Maltese ex Eritrea. Any materials so supplied should be valued for reference when ultimate settlement takes place.

Copies sent to:-

Treasury

Foreign Office

- Lt.Col.Russell Edmunds.
- Mr.W.Field Robinson.
- Mr.K.G.Ritchie.

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGRAM

File No. 7166

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary

To:—

COMMISSIONER FOR
JEWISH CAMPS.

Sent.

OTR

C.O.

Mr. *Estlin* 7/11/49

Repeated to:—

Mr. *Nicklin*

Mr

Mr

Sir

Permt U.S. of S.

Parly U.S. of S

S. of S

Priority

Nil

Reply urgently required

Important

Immediate

Most Immediate

To be transmitted:—

In Clear

Code

X Cypher *OTR*

No. 21

Restricted

X Confidential

Secret

Top Secret
and Personal

Disposal of Camps

*No repeat no objection to
making available British
administration camp 312
plus necessary material to
Cyprus Government for Maltese
ex Eritrea. Any materials
so supplied should be
valued for reference when
ultimate settlement takes
place*

Distribution:—

*U. Col. Russell Edmonds } Treasury.
W. Field Robinson }
K. G. Ritchie. F.O.
(and a copy to Mr Nicklin, S.
for his pp)*

Further action:—

Draft back to H 5-31

CA 313.

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

72

34700 4/3

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

O. E. S. Lloyd-Lindsay,
Colonial Office.

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

EN CLAIR

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

65
73

NO 81 DEPTH

D. 12.41 7TH MAY, 1949

7TH MAY, 1949.

R. 8.19 7TH MAY, 1949

YOUR DEPTH 81 (sic) "MALTESE EVACUEES".

FOLLOWING FAMILY REPEAT FAMILY NUMBERS OF EVACUEES UNDER
HEADING "B" OF OUR NO 25. 1,10,30,71,72,73,74,112,113,114,116,
117,118,119,121,122,133,157,158,163,168,169,173,174,182,201,202,
203, 206 and 97 (NAME "FINALYSON") WHICH OWING TO AN OVERSIGHT IS
NOT ON YOUR NOMINAL ROLL. AMENDMENT IS BEING FORWARDED.
NUMBER 30 HAS SINCE BEEN CERTIFIED INSANE. NUMBER 158 IS LEAVING
FOR UK BY NEXT TROOPER AS AUTHORISED BY CONSUL GENERAL, CAIRO.
NUMBER 114 IS LEAVING SHORTLY FOR TURKEY AS AUTHORISED BY CONSUL
GENERAL, CAIRO. NUMBER 122 HAS PROPERTY IN GREECE AND IS HOPING
TO BE AUTHORISED TO RETURN THERE SHORTLY.

REVISED TO TAL 31 FAMILIES 61 PERSONS

NOTE NUMBER IS 168 IS REPEATED + ON W/T COPY

ACTION C.A. Department

DISTRIBUTION

D.G.
D.D.G.
Head of E and P. Department
" " F. and E. Department
" " T.S. and S. Department
" " C.A. Department
Legal Adviser.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

EN CLAIR

61
74

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ASMARA

NO. 71 DEPTH

D. 9.00 a.m. 5TH MAY, 1949.

5TH MAY, 1949

YOUR TEL. NO. 25 [DEPTH OF 13 APRIL, MALTESE EVACUEES] GRATEFUL
YOUR SIGNAL SERIAL NUMBERS ON NOMINAL ROLL FORWARDED YOUR
S/MAL/36/117 DATED 5TH APRIL OF 34 FAMILIES UNDER HEADING
(B)

ORIGINATOR C.A. DEPARTMENT

DISTRIBUTION

D.G.

D.D.G.

Head of E. and P. Department

" " F. and E. "

" " T.S. and S. "

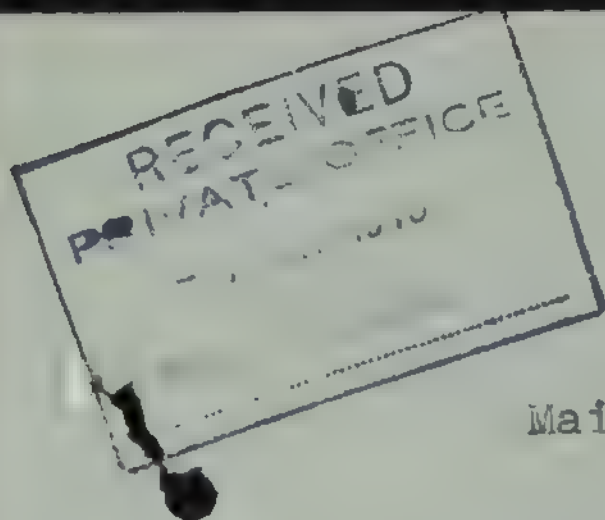
" " C.A. "

Legal Adviser

African Department

Mr. J.S. Bennett Colonial Office

Mr. K. Ritchie, Consular Dept., Foreign Office.



From

Anthony S. Bonnici
Maltese Camp
Mai-Habar
(Eritrea)

63
75

Mai-Habar the 1st May, 1949

A. Creech Jones Esq.
Colonial Secretary
(House of Commons)
London.

9024/3

Sir,

I have the honour to state that agreeable to a recent communication of the relevant authorities in Eritrea, to the inmates of this camp, through our transit camp Commandant, there is a likelihood to move, in the near future, for the return to normal life in the Crown Island CYPRUS about 540 British Subjects of Maltese descent evacuated from Turkey and the Balkans in 1941 for whom the Government have accepted responsibility. The object of my bold address is to thank you heartily for the judicious selection of the place which, in my humble opinion, geographically, economically and socially answers admirably the expectations of the body of men, women and children concerned. While I shall feel grateful to you for this further instance of the interest evinced by the Government in the welfare of the Evacuees involved,

Your most obedient servant.

Bonnici

Wt. 21498/767 Kom 748 W. & Co. 51/3

Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject.

In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

3. Your paragraph 7. ~~Please see my telegram~~

~~No.~~ Authority has been conveyed to Collins as requested.

4. I will ^{communicate} ~~telegram~~ further on remaining points raised ~~on a later date~~.

Meanwhile I would be grateful if you would convey ^{an expression of appreciation,} my thanks to

Mr. Dutton for the expedition and discretion with which he has carried out his task.

It is requested that on arrival in Cyprus warning should be repeated that help in leaving for other countries will only (in part only) be forthcoming on conditions above.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

89024/3/49

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO CYPRUS (Acting Governor)FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 14th May, 1949. 09.45 hrs.

PRIORITY

No.315 Confidential.

Your confidential priority saving No.454.

Maltese.

I approve text of proposed announcement which formed second enclosure to saving under reference, and agree that it should be issued as early as possible.

2. B.M.A., Asmara, will be asked to make announcement in accordance with date arranged in consultation with you. If it cannot be made simultaneously with Cyprus statement I would hope that it would issue as soon as possible afterwards. Grateful therefore if you would arrange date or dates of publication in concert with B.M.A. Asmara, informing me.

3. Text of Eritrea announcement as in Appendix III of enclosure I to your saving under reference except that final paragraph should read:

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

It is requested that on arrival in Cyprus warning should be repeated that help in leaving for other countries will only (repeat only) be forthcoming on conditions above.

4. Your paragraph 7. Authority has been conveyed to Collins as requested.

5. I will communicate further on remaining points raised. Meanwhile grateful if you would convey an expression of appreciation, to Mr. Dutton for the expedition and discretion with which he has carried out his task.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office
Treasury

- Mr. K.G. Ritchie.
- Mr. W. Field-Robinson.

Miss Butler,
Foreign Office, (A.A.T.)
Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,

W-1

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

64
79

Telephone :
MAYfair 7611

Devonshire House,

Mayfair Place,

London, W. 1.

Our reference : 313.

Your reference :

12 May, 1949.

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

Thank you for your letter 89024/3/49 dated 5th May 1949, about the Maltese in Eritrea.

2. The telegram from Asmara appears to have been misinterpreted. On comparing it with F.O.A.A.T. 16. Depth I find the sixty persons referred to are "British Subjects of non-Maltese extraction." I am afraid I do not know their precise origin, but I have sent a telegram to Eritrea asking them to quote the family serial numbers on the Nominal Roll. This will give us all the information we require. I will send you a copy of Eritrea's reply as soon as it comes to hand.

3. For your information, Mr. R. Deane has now undertaken the duties connected with the Eritrea Section in F.O.A.A.T. and perhaps you will be good enough to address any future correspondence on this subject to him.

Yours sincerely,

C. K. au
for (Miss J.R. Butler).

O.E.S. Lloyd, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Great-Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

Sent 5/11

THE CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET,
S. W. 1.

60.

80

89024/3/49

12 May, 1949.

Dear Miss Butler,

I do not know if Ritchie has passed over to you yet the Acting Governor of Cyprus' priority savingram No.454, but it has been agreed with the Treasury and with Ritchie that Cyprus should make an announcement as in the second enclosure to the Acting Governor's savingram. A copy of this draft statement is enclosed for ease of reference. It has also been agreed that Eritrea should be asked to make a statement at a time to be concerted between Cyprus and Eritrea on the lines of Appendix III to the first enclosure to the savingram (also enclosed) except that the final paragraph should now read:

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

MISS J.R. BUTLER,

F.O. A.A.T.,

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, MAYFAIR PLACE, W.1.

We would be grateful, provided you have no objection, if you would inform B.M.A., Asmara, that they should make the announcement as amended above at a time to be agreed in concert with Cyprus, and preferably as soon as possible after (if not simultaneously with) Cyprus' own announcement.

Yours sincerely,

JSL

APPENDIX III to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

STATEMENT to be made, when authorised, to inmates
of MAI HABAR CAMP.

The Cyprus Government at the request of His Majesty's Government has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries and are able to obtain permission to enter them will not be prevented from doing so if they produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there but emigration to such countries as Greece, Turkey and to Egypt will only be permitted after the emigrant has explicitly recognised that by going he will forfeit any right to receive relief in the future as a destitute British subject.

Draft communique

In 1941, when the enemy was advancing through the Balkans, and the invasion of European Turkey as well as Greece seemed imminent, efforts were made to evacuate British subjects from the threatened territory. Among those who were successfully withdrawn, there were some whose permanent accommodation has presented prolonged difficulty. They are of Mediterranean origin, the descendants of Maltese, who had long abandoned their mother tongue to speak instead Greek or Turkish, and who had become largely assimilated to the populations of the areas in which they lived.

In the succeeding years these unfortunate people have been accommodated in various refugee camps. In many cases it was possible to arrange for their resettlement elsewhere, but there still remain some 400 persons, now in a camp in Eritrea. Conditions in Greece, in particular, do not favour their return to that country, and in any case they have not the means to support themselves. Many of them, moreover, are aged and infirm. Their language and background make it probable that they would find a readier chance of returning to normal life in Cyprus than in any other territory available to them, and in these circumstances the Government of Cyprus has agreed to give them asylum in the Island. They will arrive a few months hence and will at first be accommodated in a reception centre in the quarters formerly used by troops administering the Jewish Camps.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have accepted full financial responsibility for the transfer and maintenance of the whole party. No charge will fall upon Cyprus funds.

C. D.
R. 12 MAY
R. 12

C. O.

Mr. Lloyd " 15

Mr. Si. *for 11 v*

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State

H 431.
Phone type
envelope to avoid
delay in sending
forward file *M.* *11 v*

Your Reference _____

DRAFT. S.C. Letter

For Mr. Lloyd's signature

Miss J.R. Butler,

F.C. S.A.T.,

Devonshire House,

Mayfair Place,

London, W.1.

Dear Miss Butler,

I do not know if Ritchie has passed over to you yet the Acting Governor of Cyprus' priority savingram No. 454, but it has been agreed with the Treasury and with Ritchie that Cyprus should make an announcement as in the second enclosure to ^{A copy of this statement is enclosed for the Acting Governor's savingram, and that} the Acting Governor's savingram, and that ^{case of reference.} Eritrea should be asked to make a statement ^{concluded} at a time to be agreed between Cyprus and Eritrea on the lines of Appendix III to the ^(also enclosed) first enclosure to the savingram, except ^{should, h} that the final paragraph ^{now reads:}

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Italy and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy of 11 flagged
behind (59) *(It has also been agreed that)*

We would be grateful, provided you
 have no objection, if you would inform
 B.M.A., Asmara, that they should make the
 announcement as amended above at a time

to be agreed in concert with Cyprus, *and preferably*
as soon as possible after report signed by Cyprus.
 Yours sincerely,

PRIORITY.

SAVING.

86

From the Acting Governor of Cyprus.
To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 454.....

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dated.....3rd May, 1947.....

11/1/47 (2)

(55)

My telegram No. 255 Confidential. MALTESE.

Encl. I

My representative has now returned from Eritrea and I enclose two copies of his report.

(20)

Encl. II.

2. Several matters mentioned in the report require consideration but the most urgent is that of publicity in Cyprus. I regard it as important that information on the coming of these Maltese should first reach the public through an official announcement and you will note that news of the proposed transfer has already leaked out in Eritrea. It was my earlier intention to publish a comprehensive statement of the events and arguments preceding the decision to accommodate the Maltese in Cyprus and, as you are aware, I proposed to use your own despatch, No. 41 confidential of the 2nd of March, as a basis for the statement. I have now, however, come to the conclusion that while there remains any hope that their reception in Cyprus will not be made the target for exaggerated criticism, it would be wise to limit the announcement to the boldest possible terms. I enclose a draft text, upon which I should be grateful for your comments by telegram.

[A further factor causing me to favour brevity is the possibility of a charge being made that at the time of the evacuation there was discrimination in favour of the Maltese and against the Cypriots who were left in Greece. I have no doubt that such a charge would be un-

/founded

And

and 77

founded or that, in the alternative, discrimination was entirely fortuitous, but I have no knowledge of the circumstances and if you can furnish me with the appropriate reply to any such charge, I shall be grateful.7

3. You will note from paragraph 11 of the report that no public statement is contemplated in Eritrea and you will no doubt agree that the type of statement which is to be made here is inappropriate as the basis for an announcement to the evacuees themselves. Nor does there seem to be any reason why the Cyprus statement should not, if necessary, be made before the camp announcement especially since the intention to move is already known in the camp. The draft at Appendix III of the report seems to be adequate but as is explained in the report itself the implied decisions to exclude non-Maltese evacuees and to allow further repatriations to Greece and Turkey require approval. Unless you are unwilling to accept the recommendations of my reporting officer, whose conclusions I support, I suggest that the Chief Administrator, B.A.E., should be asked through the Foreign Office to issue the camp notice.

4. As regards the disposal of those persons who are not of Maltese origin (paragraph 5 of the report) I offer no comment, since, they being in different case, you will doubtless wish to give them separate consideration.

5. As to permitting repatriations to Greece and Turkey there would seem to be no justification in obstructing persons from going provided they can satisfy the conditions which have previously been enforced; indeed apart from refusing to provide passage and pocket money there would be no way of preventing a person from leaving whose papers are in order. The number who wish to return to the Balkans may well decrease once they know

/that

that Cyprus offers a permanent home but I trust that I shall be authorised to continue to facilitate individual applications and where they are successful pay allowances to cover the journey.

6. A further point arising out of the report is that concerning those Maltese who may be legally repatriable to Malta. From the Foreign Office telegram quoted in paragraph 6 of the report it appears that the classes of persons whom the Malta Government are prepared to accept are even more restricted than I had been led to suppose. I do not intend to press for the return to Malta of anyone who is not legally repatriable but I should be grateful if you would ascertain and inform me of the exact legal position.

7. Steps are now being taken to prepare one of the Jewish Camp sites formerly used by British administration staff. I shall address you separately on the financial arrangements which will have to be made with the Commissioner, Jewish Camps but, as it will be essential to acquire huts and equipment from other Jewish Camp sites, I should be grateful if you would immediately authorize Sir Godfrey Collins by telegram to make materials available as a special transaction outside the disposal arrangements which he is otherwise following.

8. I shall also address you separately in due course on my proposals for helping the party to settle in Cyprus but at present my preoccupation is with the actual transfer and the initial reception.

9. It is apparent that Mr. Lutton performed his task in Eritrea with expedition and discretion, a fact which I take pleasure in bringing to your notice.

Acting Governor.

Transfer of British Evacuees from Eritrea to Cyprus.

As directed I visited Eritrea (from the 22nd April to the 26th April) to discuss the transfer of the Maltese refugees with the Chief Administrator and his staff. My outward journey was broken in Cairo in order to consult the Consul General but I obtained little information there which was not later given to me in greater detail by the British Administration, Eritrea. I did however learn for the first time that some of the evacuees were not of Maltese extraction and under normal consular procedure were eligible for repatriation to the United Kingdom. I was also informed that the Australian Government after the recent arrival of a number of Maltese from Eritrea had indicated that they were unsatisfactory immigrants and in future similar persons would be treated as non-British immigrants, i.e. they would have to produce guarantors and obtain special entry permits.

2. My work in Eritrea fell under three heads viz:-

- (1) to establish what categories of evacuees should be transferred to Cyprus;
- (2) to come to agreement with B.A.E. on various matters requiring joint decisions in connexion with the move; and
- (3) to obtain information on the sort of problems which the reception and initial accommodation of the evacuees would raise.

3. I collected much detailed information especially in connexion with the third head and will record it in note form outside this report. I have also begun to formulate in my own mind proposals for the settlement of the party after their arrival but, except in so far as such proposals affect reception arrangements, they will best be left for separate submission after discussion with the Departments concerned.

/Categories

Categories to be accepted.

4. Before I left Cyprus it had already been finally decided that the "British subjects of Maltese extraction" in the Eritrean refugee camp would be accepted in Cyprus as permanent residents. Assurances had been received that all possible steps had been taken to reduce the numbers involved and it was not therefore my intention to try to find arguments for whittling down the size of the party. I only proposed to follow up the question as to whether some persons were eligible for repatriation to Malta (the S. of S. had taken this up as in para. 2 (c) of his telegram No. 248) and to find out what, if any, transfers to other countries, than Cyprus were in train. Both these matters are mentioned below but my intention not to go further had to be abandoned when the information I had received in Cairo was confirmed and it transpired that the Cyprus Government had not received an accurate description of all the persons whom B.A.E. expected to transfer.

5. The camp is more correctly described as one for British evacuees and not for Maltese evacuees since there are some 34 families consisting of 60 persons out of a total of 470 who have no connections whatsoever with Malta and whose British nationality stems from their own, their husbands' or their parents' birth in the U.K. Because the whole question of admitting the party to Cyprus had been considered in Executive Council on the understanding that they were of Maltese extraction and because these 60 persons are automatically eligible for repatriation to the U.K. I made it clear that Cyprus had not agreed to accept persons other than those of Maltese origin. As a result the telegram at Appendix 1 was despatched by B.A.E. It is probably true that most of these persons have now no

/connections

connections in the U.K. (nor have they any in Cyprus) but they were never mentioned in any of the correspondence on the Maltese; their acceptance would constitute an additional commitment; and by taking over H.M.G.'s direct responsibility for them as D.B.S.'s of U.K. origin, any possible success which we may ultimately achieve in permanently settling and rehabilitating those of Maltese extraction would be lessened because the number requiring assistance would be increased. Some confusion may have been caused locally in Eritrea by the fact that B.A.E. was unaware that Cyprus had agreed to provide a final home for the Maltese and was under the impression that only another temporary refugee camp would be provided.

6. As regards those Maltese who may be legally repatriable to Malta, I was shown a Foreign Office telegram which sought information on this matter presumably as a result of our representations. The telegram asked for the number of evacuees who were "born in Malta or whose parents at that time (the time of birth) were ordinarily resident in Malta". The telegram added that this category was recognised as belonging to Malta under the Maltese Emigration Ordinance. There are no such persons in the camp but it will be noticed that the information asked for by the Foreign Office was not in respect of Maltese of "the first generation" whom we had thought, and the Secretary of State had agreed in para ~~Para 2(c)~~ 2(c) of the telegram mentioned above, would be eligible for ~~Reds 90-89~~. repatriation. The wording of the Foreign Office telegram, however, sounds as if it was taken straight from the relevant Maltese Ordinance and I doubt whether there is any case for insisting that those persons whose fathers were born in Malta should be admitted to Malta instead of being sent here. Nevertheless, I have asked for a list to be prepared of the

/individuals ...

individuals whose fathers were born in Malta and this will be sent. At the same time I indicated to B.A.E. that we would not seek to hold up the transfer whilst the question was being settled and I suggest that if it turns out that there are persons whom Malta must legally accept they can be sent from Cyprus. In the meanwhile clarification can be obtained.

7. The remaining matter in connection with the number of evacuees who are to make Cyprus their final home as opposed to a transit camp is of some importance. In his ~~Rs. 47-46 and~~ despatch No. 41 of the 2nd March, 1949, the Secretary of State explained at paras 3 and 9 that attempts to return to Greece and Turkey should be discouraged. He recognised however that it would not be possible to impose peculiar restrictions and reference was made to "large scale migration" not to moves by individual family groups. I found that arrangements had been made and were being made in Eritrea to enable evacuees who could obtain entry visas and guarantees of maintenance sworn before a British Consul in the country concerned to return to Turkey and Greece. This action had the approval and assistance of the Foreign Office and is in accordance with normal consular practice. Persons repatriated in this way sign an undertaking renouncing any future claim to relief but have their passages paid and, I believe, are also given pocket money for the journey. A number of such cases are in various stages of investigation and a batch is expected to depart very soon. New applications will almost certainly be made and many of the Maltese, who already have knowledge of their probable move to Cyprus, regard the Island as a stepping stone to the Balkans. The questions therefore arise whether B.A.E. should :-

- (i) despatch to Greece and Turkey evacuees whose papers are completed;
- (ii) continue to facilitate the consideration of outstanding applications, and
- (iii) accept new applications.

My view is that we should not try to prevent in Cyprus what was allowed in Eritrea but present practice is not on the face of it entirely in keeping with what is proposed by the Secretary of State for the future. I think the point should be cleared up to avoid difficulties later. It is important because should there have to be any change (which will in any case make the evacuees more difficult to handle) it should be announced early and old applications should not continue to be dealt with or new ones accepted if the Cyprus Government is to be required to discourage entry into Greece and Turkey after the transfer. Moreover one of the first reactions of the camp inmates when an announcement is made will be to ask whether the transfer to Cyprus jeopardises their chances of returning to Turkey and Greece under the present system, and it is understandably the attitude of B.A.E. that any statement should include the answer to this question or otherwise there will be trouble in the camp. As will be seen in paragraphs 11 and 12 below dealing with the question of publicity I have for the moment presumed that persons will still be allowed to go. Apart from the desirability of keeping the numbers to be assimilated in Cyprus as low as possible in their own interests I cannot see how an abrupt change in policy could be justified and to do so without demonstrable justification will make more difficult the task of reception and settlement in Cyprus in that the evacuees will be disgruntled and uncooperative. I understand that B.A.E. will raise the question, as it affects them, with the F.O. We will have to do the same with the S. of S.

8. I should mention that it is only within recent months that attempts have been made to resettle evacuees from Eritrea in other countries. From January 1941, when the party arrived in Eritrea, until September, B.A.E. were without instructions about the action to be taken on resettlement or repatriation. Efforts to reduce the numbers since the Indian period have not therefore been prolonged

nor are all possibilities necessarily exhausted. I was left far from convinced that only a hard core remains: given more time and earlier guidance B.A.E. might have got more away. I have arranged that all the records of outstanding applications for admission to other countries together with any personal documents or history sheets will be handed over

Points agreed with B.A.E.

9. At Appendix II is a brief note drawn up at the end of my visit. Items (i), (ii), and (iv), need no further comment. From item (v) it will be seen that the present Camp Commandant will not carry on in Cyprus: he does not wish to and would not be entirely suitable. I will mention in my Supplementary notes what sort of person we should try to appoint. There remain items (iii) and (vi) on the date of transfer and the publicity to be given.

10. In addition to a strong desire to be rid of a party of rather troublesome people whose original stay was expected to last no longer than two months and whose safety causes some concern (one evacuee was murdered recently by a bandit) B.A.E. must reduce the number of persons who will have to be evacuated from Eritrea when its future is decided. The likelihood of an early decision seems to have faded but so many different groups may have to leave eventually that B.A.E. wish to make a start immediately on those whose presence places a burden on the Administration. We agreed on the 1st July as a target date since, in the less urgent circumstances, it satisfies B.A.E. but should give Cyprus time to prepare. I have however reserved the right to put the date back if the D.P.W. cannot have a camp ready by then. The final date will be fixed by B.A.E. not only because it will be their responsibility to arrange transport but also because they will wish to get away all the camp inmates at the same time and the disposal of the 60 persons mentioned in para 5 above may not be settled in time to move them at the date convenient for /the transfer.....

the transfer of the Maltese. .

11. The publicity required on the transfer makes two separate statements necessary. In Cyprus the public must be given brief and general official information before any leak of the news leads to rumours which would be even more embarrassing than the criticism which is expected in any event. (I understand such a statement has been drafted during my absence). In Eritrea there is no public interest in the evacuees and it is intended to do no more than post a notice in the camp for the information of the evacuees. The camp announcement will however have to be more explicit than the Cyprus communique since on it will depend the evacuees' attitude towards their move. At the same time it is essential that we should avoid any statement which may cause misunderstanding in the future. I became somewhat anxious in Eritrea lest those immediately responsible for running the camp might seek to obtain willing co-operation and a trouble free departure by making hasty statements about the future which would later be quoted as authoritative promises. Accordingly I left behind a short draft notice, attached as Appendix III, which I think says enough for the present. Nevertheless parts of it require consideration as is mentioned below. B.A.E. will not be able to make any announcement until the existing prohibition is cancelled by the F.O. and this is convenient as the terms of the statement can be considered at the same time. I believe the text of the Cyprus statement is to be referred to the S. of S. and I suggest that the text of the camp announcement should be sent with it. There is not however any reason why authority to issue the former should await examination of the latter, and it is important that both should now be published without delay because the leakage of news in Eritrea might result in the Cypriot public first hearing about the move from unofficial sources and in Eritrea the evacuees are becoming restive in the absence of official confirmation.

/12.

12. My draft statement is neither very detailed nor elaborate and I deliberately did not attempt to be explicit at this stage about future plans for resettlement. It will however be noted that I have sought from the outset to indicate, albeit in general terms, that Cyprus is not just providing yet another refugee camp but is to afford a final home. I have used the expression "reception camp" and I am quite convinced that it should be our policy to disperse the immigrants to various towns as soon as possible. The two points requiring consideration in that they reflect decisions are

- (1) the exclusion of those who are not evacuees of Maltese extraction (para 5 above refers), and
- (ii) the assumption that repatriations to Greece and Turkey will be allowed to continue (para 7 above refers).

General Information.

13. I have obtained a detailed estimate of the number of rooms etc. required. Considerable additions will be needed to the Jewish Camp Administration site but there is no other possible place available and a new camp could not be prepared in the time available nor would it be justifiable to spend the extra money. The accommodation here will certainly not be as good as that in Eritrea but fortunately we can regard the camp as a temporary reception centre and the evacuees are very anxious to get away from bandits and isolation. There are in Eritrea at present 470 persons but in addition to the 60 who are not of Maltese origin others are expected to be sent elsewhere in the near future. It seems possible therefore that we shall have to cater for less than 400.

14. Nothing I heard or saw led me to believe that the impression of a collection of shiftless people given by the correspondence on them was in any way incorrect. Some are a great deal better than others but there seems to be a general tendency to clamour for the rights of British subjection and screw the last penny out of the charity box.

/Reading

Reading the petitions and representations of their Central Committee forcibly reminded me of dealings with the Jews. The percentage of aged and infirm had not been exaggerated and daily visits to the camp by a doctor are necessary. There are about 125 children under 16 years and many youths who have never had any employment. I regret to say I found it necessary to ask for a list of V.D. cases as the number affected warrants the Medical Department being forewarned. Unquestionably the only hope of rehabilitating those who are capable of becoming useful citizens is in removing them from the atmosphere of a refugee camp but it will be a hard struggle to efface the results of ^{their} having lived so long with nothing more to do than argue about the amount of public relief to which they were entitled.

15. My detailed notes include particulars of the allowances and services which are at present provided; equipment available or required; accounting procedure; and some idea of the way in which the existing camp is run. Here I will only mention that in Eritrea the Department of Labour is responsible for the evacuees and I see advantage in our considering a similar allocation of responsibility in Cyprus.

16. I should like to end this report by recording how very helpful all the B.A.E. officers were: their willingness to help exceeded even what could be expected from those interested in unloading an unpleasant commitment.

APPENDIX I. to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

25th April, 1949.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

XXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXX

Your telegram No. DEPTH 6 of 7th April
subject MALTESE.

- ONE. CYPRUS Government representative now here says his Government have agreed accept only those of Maltese origin.
- TWO. There are 34 families comprising 60 persons not of Maltese origin as mentioned in our telegram No. DEPTH 25 of 13th April. These will not be accepted.
- THREE. Nevertheless as whole object is to remove all repeat all these displaced persons from Eritrea as soon as possible owing to political situation request that Cyprus Government be asked to accept these 34 families as well. Majority of these persons though British subjects have no connections in United Kingdom and do not wish to be sent there. They cannot be left in Eritrea.
- FOUR. Please ask Colonial Office to repeat this telegram to Cyprus Government for information.

APPENDIX II. to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

MALTESE TO CYPRUS.

C.S.,

As a result of discussions with the Cyprus Government representative it has been agreed that:-

- (i) Cyprus will accept all those of Maltese origin. A separate directive has been requested from the F.O. with regard to the remaining 60 persons of U.K. origin.
 - (ii) B.A. Eritrea will be responsible for the evacuees until their arrival in Cyprus.
 - (iii) Cyprus Government will inform us the earliest date they are able to accept the evacuees dependant on the preparation of camp site, provisionally 1st July, 1949. Final E.T.A. will be arranged by B.A. Eritrea.
 - (iv) Shipping arrangements to be made by B.A.E.; if possible a special ship being chartered.
 - (v) An advance party of about 4 responsible evacuees will go to Cyprus about 2 weeks in advance of the main party to arrange the camp and assist with preparations for reception of main party. Mr. Shaw to act as conducting Officer of main party, and to remain in Cyprus until handover to Camp Commandant completed.
 - (vi) An announcement concerning the move will not be made until authority received from F.O. when evacuees will be informed in the lines suggested by Mr. Dutton.
- (N.B. Those who already have their documents in order for repatriation to Greece or Turkey may be told that the move will not jeopardise their chances of returning to those countries). Those of U.K. origin who may not be acceptable to the Cyprus Government will be told that their case is under consideration.

A/Pol.Sec.

AHS/GG.

Asmara, 25/4/1949.

* Reservation made by Cyprus representative that position should first be cleared with F.O.

APPENDIX III to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

STATEMENT to be made, when authorised, to inmates
of MAI HABAR CAMP.

The Cyprus Government at the request of H.M.G. has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment. Whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries and are able to obtain permission to enter them will not be prevented from doing so if they produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there but emigration to such countries as Greece, Turkey and to Egypt will only be permitted after the emigrant has explicitly recognised that by going he will forfeit any right to receive relief in the future as a destitute British subject.

Draft communiqué

In 1941, when the enemy was advancing through the Balkans, and the invasion of European Turkey as well as Greece seemed imminent, efforts were made to evacuate British subjects from the threatened territory. Among those who were successfully withdrawn, there were some whose permanent accommodation has presented prolonged difficulty. They are of Mediterranean origin, the descendants of Maltese, who had long abandoned their mother tongue to speak instead Greek or Turkish, and who had become largely assimilated to the populations of the areas in which they lived.

In the succeeding years these unfortunate people have been accommodated in various refugee camps. In many cases it was possible to arrange for their resettlement elsewhere, but there still remain some 400 persons, now in a camp in Eritrea. Conditions in Greece, in particular, do not favour their return to that country, and in any case they have not the means to support themselves. Many of them, moreover, are aged and infirm. Their language and background make it probable that they would find a readier chance of returning to normal life in Cyprus than in any other territory available to them, and in these circumstances the Government of Cyprus has agreed to give them asylum in the Island. They will arrive a few months hence and will at first be accommodated in a reception centre in the quarters formerly used by troops administering the Jewish Camps.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have accepted full financial responsibility for the transfer and maintenance of the whole party. No charge will fall upon Cyprus funds.

